

## MULTI-GENRE WRITING ASSIGNMENT (Collected Works) AP LITERATURE

### Benjamin Clark

*The Collected Works of Billy the Kid* is an example of a multi-genre work. Michael Ondaatje uses narratives, poems, songs, interviews, photographs, and other genres to create a portrait of his subject. Now you are going to do the same thing.

These works are NOT biographies or research papers. Any Collected Works that is simply biography will not be accepted. Nor are they essays. You are not trying to explicitly articulate a position about your topic. You are, instead, using a variety of genres to create "moments" that, taken together, may lead to a reader creating his or her own interpretation of the subject, as you did when you created your pictures of Billy the Kid.

The Final Product will have:

- A minimum of 10 written pieces. Of course, you should include images in addition to the written requirements.

- Of those ten pieces, at least four must be poems

- At least two must be narratives

- The rest of the pieces are up to you to decide.

- Anything that you use in your collected works that comes from another source must be in italics. (For instance, if you are writing a poem about Emily Dickinson and you use a line from one of her poems in your poem, put that line in italics.)

- A cover with some sort of image or design, not just text.

- A Works Cited page using proper MLA format. (See me if you are not sure of what MLA format is. Include all sources you consulted, even if you did not quote from it in your Collected Works.)

FORM/FUNCTION PIECES. For each piece, you must write a Form/Function description. In this you identify the Purpose that you wanted the piece to fulfill, and talk about the literary techniques that you used to fulfill that purpose. You must explain what you were attempting in each piece, and discuss the decisions that you made as an author as to how best succeed in that attempt.

Example. *I felt that I needed to show that Mark Twain was not the gentle humorist that most people think of when they speak of him. So much of his life was bitter, and he was a very angry man towards the end of his life. I wanted this piece to show a bit of that anger. I tried to do this in several ways. First, the diction. Words such as "stark," "bleak", "black", "rage" (which I repeated three times, including as the rhyming word in the final couplet), "void", "animal" "bile" and "darkness" all try to carry that meaning.*

*I also used the meter of the poem to communicate his growing disillusion. The first two stanzas are almost perfect iambic pentameter, with no caesuras and with frequent enjambment to make the poem flow in a measured, ordered way. With the third and fourth stanza, I start to use spondees and caesuras, often indicated by exclamation points, to show the increasing stridency of his thoughts and his loss of faith in an ordered universe. For example, in the line "Stark words rage! Blow, bile, bellow in the dark beyond the last laugh" I started with three stressed syllables followed by a caesura. Three more stressed syllables follow the exclamation mark, and the rhythm never resolves into regular iambic, using instead an anapest (in the*

*dark), two iambs (beyond the last), and a final stressed syllable, by itself (laugh) to emphasize how laughter no longer fits into the rhythm of his life.*

*Throughout the collected works I have used images of tobacco, and in this poem I show him "crushing" the cigar butt and "gobbing the dark juices from his lungs." In earlier pieces I used tobacco as an instrument of humor, but now that image has also become darker. The cigar ashes on his white suit connects this image to the images of his clothes that I have used throughout the work.*

Be specific in these explanations. Don't just tell me what the purpose of the piece was or what the piece means. Tell me, in detail, why you wrote it the way you did, and demonstrate how your choices support the purpose of that piece. For each piece in your collected works, staple the Form/Function explanation to all rough drafts of that piece, and hand those in separately.

Log: On a separate piece of paper, keep a log of the time you spent on this project researching, writing, drafting, revising, conferencing.

Example.

Date/Time	Work Done
Nov. 16 7:30-8:30	Internet research on my topic
Nov. 17 9:00-12:00	Wrote first draft of interview.

Evaluation:	Log	10
	Title Page	10
	Works Cited	10
	Form/Function pieces	50
	Polished Collected Works (on time, meet minimum requirements)	20

Most Fridays will be given over to work on this assignment, as long as you use the time given productively. Use the time to write, revise, edit, have a conference with me.

Four pieces (polished with Form/Function pieces) must be completed before the end of this semester.